

RESPONSE

Serial Number: 10696,451

Filing Date: 10/29/2003

Title: Quick Attachment System

Page 2

Atty Docket No.: 14051

CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claim listing for the claim listing currently in the subject application. In the claims below all insertions are identified by underlines and all deletions are identified by ~~strike throughs~~ or [[double brackets]]. Any other changes other than those identified are unintentional and in error.

I claim:

1. (currently amended) A quick attachment system for a work vehicle having a frame defining an upper pair and a lower pair of holes formed in opposing pairs of vertically and longitudinally extending frame plates, the upper pair of holes having a first common horizontal and laterally extending axis and the lower pair of holes having a second common horizontal and laterally extending axis, the frame extending from the rear of the vehicle forward to a point at least ahead of the rear wheels, the system comprising:

a first elongate member extending between and coupling the upper pair of holes;

a first hook that opens downward to engage the first elongate member adjacent a first of the upper pair of holes;

a second hook that opens downward to engage the first elongate member adjacent a second of the upper pair of holes;

a first eye having a first hole configured to be disposed adjacent to a first of the lower pair of holes;

a second eye having a second hole configured to be disposed adjacent to a second of said lower pair of holes; and

a plate that is coupled to and between the first and second eyes and the first and second holes.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plate is configured to extend generally perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

RESPONSE

Serial Number: 10696,451

Filing Date: 10/29/2003

Title: Quick Attachment System

Page 3

Atty Docket No.: 14051

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3. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the first hook and the first eye are disposed on a first elongate member fixed to the plate, and further wherein the second hook and the second eye are disposed on a second elongate member fixed to the plate.
4. (original) The system of claim 3, wherein the first and second elongate members extend vertically along the plate.
5. (original) The system of claim 4, further comprising a drawbar, and further wherein the plate includes an aperture disposed along the lower edge of the plate that is configured to receive said drawbar and support said drawbar in a generally horizontal and longitudinally extending position.
6. (original) The system of claim 5, wherein the plate includes a plurality of holes configured to receive threaded fasteners to fix an implement directly to the plate.
7. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein the draw bar is disposed to extend underneath the implement.
8. (currently amended) A quick attachment system for coupling a drawbar and an implement directly to a frame of a work vehicle, wherein the frame includes two laterally opposed frame plates that extend longitudinally and are perpendicular to the ground, each of the frame plates having an upper hole and a lower hole disposed one above the other at the rear edge of the frame plate, and wherein the upper holes of the frame plates share a first laterally extending horizontal axis and wherein the lower holes share a second laterally extending horizontal axis, the frame extending from the rear of the vehicle forward to a point at least ahead of the rear wheels, the system comprising:
- at least a first laterally extending member coupled to the upper holes of the frame plates;
 - at least a second laterally extending member coupled to the lower holes of the frame plates;

RESPONSE

Serial Number: 10696,451

Filing Date: 10/29/2003

Title: Quick Attachment System

Page 4

Atty Docket No.: 14051

a first hook that opens downward to engage the at least a first member adjacent a first of the upper pair of holes;

a second hook that opens downward to engage the at least a first member adjacent a second of the upper pair of holes;

a first eye having a first hole engaging the at least a second member;

a second eye having a second hole engaging the at least a second member; and

an implement mounting plate coupled to and between the first and second eyes and the first and second holes, the plate having mounting holes for attaching an implement thereto and an aperture for receiving a drawbar.

9. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein the mounting plate extends perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

10. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the first hook and the first eye are disposed on a first elongate member fixed to the plate, and further wherein the second hook and the second eye are disposed on a second elongate member fixed to the mounting plate.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the at least a first member is a single cylindrical pin extending between and coupling the upper holes, and further wherein the at least a second member includes a first lower pin coupling the first eye to one of the lower holes of the frame plates and a second lower pin coupling the second eye to another of the lower holes of the frame plates.

12. (original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a drawbar, and further wherein the mounting plate includes an aperture disposed along the lower edge of the mounting plate that is configured to receive said drawbar and support said drawbar in a generally horizontal and longitudinally extending position.

RESPONSE

Serial Number: 10696,451

Filing Date: 10/29/2003

Title: Quick Attachment System

Page 5

Atty Docket No.: 14051

13. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the mounting plate defines a plurality of holes extending therethrough and wherein the mounting plate is configured to receive threaded fasteners to fix an implement directly to the mounting plate.

14. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein the draw bar is disposed to extend underneath the implement.

15. (currently amended) A quick attachment system for a work vehicle having a frame defining an upper and a lower pair of coupling holes formed in opposing pairs of vertically and longitudinally extending frame plates, the upper pair of holes having a first common horizontal and laterally extending axis and the lower pair of holes having a second common horizontal and laterally extending axis, the frame extending from the rear of the vehicle forward to a point at least ahead of the rear wheels, the system comprising:

a means for coupling the upper pair of holes;

a first means for engaging the first elongate member adjacent a first of the upper pair of holes;

a second means for engaging the first elongate member adjacent a second of the upper pair of holes;

a third means disposed adjacent to a first of said lower pair of holes for coupling to said first hole of said lower pair of holes;

a fourth means disposed adjacent to a second of said lower pair of holes for coupling said second of said lower pair of holes; and

a means for coupling the first second, third and forth means together and for attaching to and supporting an implement.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein said first means and second means include two parallel spaced-apart downwardly opening hooks.

17. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein said third and fourth means include two parallel space-apart eyes.

RESPONSE

Serial Number: 10696,451

Filing Date: 10/29/2003

Title: Quick Attachment System

Page 6

Atty Docket No.: 14051

18. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein a first of each of the two hooks and two eyes are disposed together on a first elongate member fixed to the means for coupling, and further wherein a second of each of the two hooks and two eyes are disposed together on a second elongate member fixed to the means for coupling.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, further comprising a drawbar, and further wherein the means for coupling includes at least one mounting plate, and further wherein the at least one mounting plate includes an aperture disposed along the lower edge of the at least one mounting plate that is configured to receive and support said drawbar.

20. (original) The system of claim 19 further comprising an implement drawbar, and further wherein the at least one mounting plate includes an aperture disposed along the lower edge of the at least one mounting plate that is configured to receive said drawbar and support said drawbar in a generally horizontal and longitudinally extending position.